

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

Agency 082

Public Disclosure Commission

Recommendation Summary

Dollars in Thousands

	Annual FTEs	General Fund State	Other Funds	Total Funds
2005-07 Expenditure Authority	25.0	4,069	10	4,079
Total Maintenance Level	25.5	4,315		4,315
Difference	.5	246	(10)	236
Percent Change from Current Biennium	2.0%	6.0%	(100.0)%	5.8%
Performance Changes				
Judicial Independence Act	3.0	400	4,000	4,400
Information Technology Investment	1.0	161		161
Additional Legal Services		180		180
Compensation Increase		8		8
Revise Pension Gain-Sharing #		(10)		(10)
Nonrepresented Staff Health Benefit		21		21
Nonrepresented Staff Salary Change		250		250
Subtotal	4.0	1,010	4,000	5,010
Total Proposed Budget	29.5	5,325	4,000	9,325
Difference	4.5	1,256	3,990	5,246
Percent Change from Current Biennium	18.0%	30.9%	39,900.0%	128.6%
Total Proposed Budget by Activity				
Agency Administration	5.9	1,203	4,004	5,207
Enforcement of Public Disclosure Laws	4.3	974	7	981
Provide Public Access to Certain Campaign, Lobbying and Financial Information	19.8	2,715	29	2,744
Other Statewide Adjustments		433	(40)	393
Total Proposed Budget	30.0	5,325	4,000	9,325

PERFORMANCE LEVEL CHANGE DESCRIPTIONS

Judicial Independence Act

The Judicial Independence Act creates a voluntary, pilot campaign-funding system for appellate judicial positions to reduce the impact of special interests on judicial campaigns. The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) will participate in this pilot. (General Fund-State, Judicial Independence Act Account-State)

Information Technology Investment

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has automated many of its processes through the use of its campaign activity and independent expenditure reporting programs. Currently, three of its four electronic filing systems are more than five years old and need to be replaced. In addition, no e-filing system exists for public agency lobbyists. An information technology specialist position is needed to create and maintain PDC filing systems and to provide assistance to agency customers who use them.

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Additional Legal Services

Campaign finance law is a specialized field requiring expertise not readily available. Additional funding for legal services is necessary to effectively advocate for the Commission and the state in the 40 enforcement matters pending in the U.S. Supreme Court, State Supreme Court, State Court of Appeals and state Superior Courts.

Compensation Increase

Funding is needed to sustain the Fiscal Year 2007 merit increase granted to the PDC's executive director and to increase the salaries of comparable positions.

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTIONS

Agency Administration

Agency Administration provides administrative and management support to the Public Disclosure Commission.

Enforcement of Public Disclosure Laws

The Public Disclosure Commission monitors whether persons subject to public disclosure laws file timely reports and comply with other provisions of the law. The agency reviews approximately 70 complaints from the public annually, the vast majority relating to provisions of the campaign financing statutes. The commission initiates investigations, produces reports, and enforces the public disclosure laws, including hearing enforcement cases and imposing penalties on violators.

Provide Public Access to Certain Campaign, Lobbying and Financial Information

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) provides full and timely public access to political finance data by maintaining a secure, comprehensive website, and developing and maintaining electronic filing alternatives for campaigns, lobbyists, lobbyist employers, and personal financial affairs filers. The agency assists filers in fulfilling statutory reporting requirements by providing training, instructional manuals, help screens, and telephone and e-mail assistance. Commission staff enters, reviews, and maintains data required of campaigns, lobbyists, lobbyist employers, and others to ensure the uniformity and accuracy of the data.

Other Statewide Adjustments

This item reflects proposed compensation and other adjustments that were not allocated to individual agency activities. The agency will assign these costs to the proper activities after the budget is enacted.